

Date: September 2017

To: School Food Authorities (SFAs) Participating in the Wisconsin USDA Foods Program

From: Lynne Slack, Processing Specialist and Laura Sime, Distribution Specialist

Subject: Direct Diversion Processing Program

All SFAs ordering USDA Foods will have the option of participating in a Direct Diversion Processing Program for School Year (SY) 2018-19.

Direct diversion is the process of sending bulk raw USDA Foods directly to selected processors to process into finished end products. With this option, each SFA is directly responsible for selecting processors and finished end products through a procurement process. For SY 2018-19, there is no limit as to which USDA Foods can be ordered for processing. However, the statewide commitments to each processor for each bulk USDA Food must total a half truckload.

This processing program is an option available to all SFAs; however, the State Processing Program will still be available for those SFAs who do not wish to do their own processing. If you choose the Direct Diversion Processing Program, you will not be able to order any of the state processed items.

Specific information and details regarding this processing option can be found on the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction website: [Direct Diversion Processing](#). In addition, there are eight, brief direct diversion processing webinars on the website: [Direct Diversion Training](#). This information is intended to assist SFAs in determining if the Direct Diversion Processing Program will benefit their school nutrition program. If you are considering this option, you will need to begin working on this now. SFAs will need to choose a processing option (either State Processing Program or Direct Diversion Processing Program) when placing their annual USDA Foods order for SY 2018-19.

In addition, there will be several direct diversion events in conjunction with the School Nutrition Association-Wisconsin (SNA-WI) fall conference. Details on the events and the registration information are available on the link below.

All events to be held at **The Holiday Inn Hotel and Convention Center, 1001 Amber Avenue, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.**

SNA-WI is coordinating the registration process for the direct diversion training sessions and the SNA-WI fall conference. Please see the SNA-WI website for [conference details and registration information](#). SFAs can also [register online here](#).